CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A paper tray to provide imaging media to an imaging apparatus, comprising:

a base cassette configured to be received by the imaging apparatus; and

an insert cassette configured to contain imaging media and to be received within the base cassette.

2. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein the insert cassette is a first insert cassette configured to receive imaging media of a first size, the paper tray further comprising a second insert cassette configured to receive imaging media of a second size.

3. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein the base cassette comprises a first keying member, and the insert cassette comprises a second keying member configured to mate with the first keying member.

4. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein the insert cassette comprises a handle member to facilitate removal of the insert cassette from the base cassette.

5. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein:

the base cassette comprises a first bottom panel, a lift plate, and a biasing member to bias the lift plate away from the first bottom panel; and

the insert cassette comprises a second bottom panel defining an opening therein to allow the lift plate to contact imaging media received within the insert cassette.

6. The paper tray of claim 5, and wherein the insert cassette further comprises a restraining member to restrain imaging media received within the insert cassette from being ejected by the lift plate.

7. The paper tray of claim 6, and wherein the base cassette further comprises a first locking member, and the insert cassette comprises a second locking member configured to engage the first locking member and thereby hold the insert cassette in relatively fixed position with respect to the base cassette.

8. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein:

the base cassette comprises a front panel, a back panel, and two side panels adjoining the front and back panels, the front, back and side panels forming an upper periphery which defines a receptacle to receive the insert cassette; and

the insert cassette comprises a top panel which is supported by the base cassette upper periphery when the insert cassette is placed in the base cassette receptacle.

9. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein the base cassette comprises a front panel, a back panel, two side panels adjoining the front and back panels, and a bottom panel, the front, back, side and bottom panels defining a receptacle to receive the insert cassette, and wherein the insert cassette is supported by the bottom panel when the insert cassette is placed in the base cassette receptacle.

10. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein:

the insert cassette is a first insert cassette having a first receptacle sized to receive imaging media of a first size;

the paper tray further comprises a second insert cassette having a second receptacle sized to receive imaging media of a second size;

the first and second insert cassettes are of the same width, and the width is defined by a centerline; and

the first and second receptacles are centered about the respective centerlines of the first and second insert cassettes.

11. The paper tray of claim 1, and wherein:

the insert cassette is a first insert cassette having a first receptacle sized to receive imaging media of a first size;

the paper tray further comprises a second insert cassette having a second receptacle sized to receive imaging media of a second size; and

the first and second insert cassettes are defined by a first edge, and the first and second receptacles are each aligned to a common predetermined distance from each first edge.

12. A paper tray assembly to provide imaging media to an imaging apparatus, comprising a base cassette and an insert cassette, the base cassette defining an insert cassette receptacle to receive at least a portion of the insert cassette, and the insert cassette defining an imaging media receptacle to receive the imaging media.

13. The paper tray assembly of claim 12, and wherein the insert cassette is a first insert cassette, the imaging media receptacle is a first media receptacle, and the first media receptacle is sized to receive imaging media of a first size, the paper tray assembly further comprising a second insert cassette defining a second imaging media receptacle sized to receive imaging media of a second size.

14. The paper tray assembly of claim 13, and wherein the base cassette is defined by a side edge, and wherein the first and second insert cassettes are sized to be received within the insert cassette receptacle so as to be aligned with the base cassette side edge.

15. The paper tray assembly of claim 14, and wherein second insert cassette comprises a spacer to align the second insert cassette with the base cassette side edge.

16. The paper tray assembly of claim 15, and wherein the spacer is deployable from a first position to a second position.

17. The paper tray assembly of claim 13, and wherein the base cassette is defined by a centerline, and wherein the first and second insert cassettes are sized to be received within the insert cassette receptacle so as to be aligned with the base cassette centerline.

18. The paper tray assembly of claim 17, and wherein the second insert cassette comprises a plurality of spacers to align the second insert cassette with the base cassette centerline.

19. The paper tray assembly of claim 18, and wherein the spacers are deployable from a first position to a second position.

20. The paper tray assembly of claim 13, and wherein the base cassette is defined by a top edge, and wherein the first and second insert cassettes are sized to be received within the insert cassette receptacle so as to be aligned with the base cassette top edge.

21. The paper tray assembly of claim 20, and wherein the second insert cassette comprises a spacer to align the second insert cassette with the base cassette top edge.

22. The paper tray assembly of claim 21, and wherein the spacer is deployable from a first position to a second position.

23. A package of imaging media for use in an imaging apparatus, the imaging apparatus having a base cassette to hold imaging media, comprising:

a rigid imaging media container sized to be received within the base cassette; and

imaging media placed within the imaging media container.

24. The package of imaging media of claim 23, and wherein the imaging media container further comprises a spacer which orients the imaging media container with respect to the base cassette when the imaging media container is received within the base cassette.

25. The package of imaging media of claim 24, and wherein the spacer is deployable from a first position wherein the spacer is juxtaposed to the imaging media container, to a second position wherein the spacer orients the imaging media container with respect to the base cassette.

26. The package of imaging media of claim 25, and wherein the spacer comprises a spacer locking device to secure the spacer in the second position.

27. The package of imaging media of claim 25, and further comprising an over-wrap covering the imaging media container, and wherein the over wrap is attached to the spacer to cause the spacer to deploy to the second position when the over-wrap is removed from the imaging media container.

28. The package of imaging media of claim 23, and wherein the imaging media container further comprises a bottom panel having an opening formed therein.

29. The package of imaging media of claim 28, and wherein the imaging media container defines a top area opposite the bottom panel, the imaging media container further comprising an imaging media restraining member positioned within the top area to restrict movement of imaging media out of the top area.

30. The package of imaging media of claim 23, and wherein the imaging media container is fabricated from cardboard.